

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 4-31, 34-42, 55, 56, 58-63, and 67 are pending in the application. This paper amends claims 4, 21, 34, 55, and 58; cancels claims 1-3, 32-33, 43-54, 57, and 64-66 without prejudice or disclaimer; and adds new claim 67. Claims 4, 21, 34, 55, 58, and 67 are the independent claims of the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant and his legal representative gratefully acknowledge the notification of allowable subject matter in claims 4-20, 22-31, 33-42, 55, 56, 58-62. It appears that the Examiner intended to indicate that dependent claim 63 is also allowable.

Claims 4, 21, 34, 55, and 58 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base and intervening claims. As indicated in the Office Action, these claims should now be allowable. Claims 5-20, 22-31, 35-42, 56, and 59-63 depend from allowable base claims and should be allowable at least for that reason.

New Claim

New claim 67 is believed to be allowable because the art of record does not disclose or suggest a combination of elements as recited in that claim.

Note that new claim 67 is similar to amended claim 4, but does not recite the limitations of claim 3. It appears that the Examiner's determination of patentability of claim 4 does not depend on the limitations of claim 3. Therefore, new claim 67 should be allowable.


CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable. To discuss any matter pertaining to the instant application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (858) 720-9431.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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